

CYCLAXYRA BROUN, 1893 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA):
PROPOSED CONSERVATION BY THE SUPPRESSION OF
MELANOCHROA BROUN, 1882. Z.N.(S.)2511

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Broun (1881, pp. 667–668) described and established the genus *Cyclomorpha* in the combination *Cyclomorpha politula*. However, the generic name is preoccupied by the molluscan genus-group name *Cyclomorpha* Pease (1871, p. 464).

2. In a brief anonymous paper whose authorship has universally and correctly been attributed to Broun (1882a) it is stated: 'We have been requested to publish the following alterations of the names of certain genera recently published in Capt. Broun's 'Manual of the New Zealand Coleoptera', they having previously been used either in that order or in other branches of zoology.

Melanochroa for *Cyclomorpha*'

There follows a list of nine other replacement names for preoccupied generic names of Broun (1880, 1881). This was repeated verbatim in Broun (1882b).

3. *Melanochroa* Roeder (1886, pp. 139–140) (type species, by monotypy, *Melanochroa dubia* Roeder, 1886) was described for a genus of stratiomyid Diptera.

4. Broun (1893, pp. 1076–1077) fully described the genus *Cyclaxyra* and briefly redescribed *C. politula* (Broun, 1881). At the conclusion of the species description he stated: 'This species was formerly named *Cyclomorpha*, but as I find the name has been used before, I have substituted *Cyclaxyra*. As it is a very interesting genus the new name is accompanied by the description.' There is no mention of the name *Melanochroa*, which had apparently been forgotten by Broun.

5. In the *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, Grouvelle (1913, p. 170) listed *Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893 as the valid name for this genus, listing *Cyclomorpha* Broun, 1881 and *Melanochroa* Broun, 1882 as synonyms.

6. Broun (1915, p. 314) described a second species, *Cyclaxyra impressa*.

7. Hudson (1934, p. 189) listed '*Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893 (substituted for *Cyclomorpha*)', as the valid name for the genus. *Melanochroa* was not mentioned.

8. Crowson (1955, p. 99) referred to *Cyclaxyra*, which had previously been placed in the NITIDULIDAE, and provisionally transferred it to SPHINDIDAE (op. cit., p. 102; see also pp. 171, 172).

9. Sen Gupta & Crowson (1966, p. 62) included 'Phalacridae, genus *Cyclaxyra* Broun' in a revised key to certain families of Clavicornia.

10. Crowson (1967a, p. 212) stated: 'Phalacridae: The genus *Cyclaxyra* Broun has the essential larval features of this group, the adult differs from other Phalacridae in the middle coxal cavities not closed by the sterna, the simple tarsi, and in the aedeagus, inter alia.'

11. Crowson (1967b) mentioned *Cyclaxyra* 5 times, while Watt (1982) followed Crowson in including the two species of *Cyclaxyra* in PHALACRIDAE.

12. 'Crowson (1981) gave observations on the biology of *Cyclaxyra* and drew attention to its systematic and biological importance as an ancient relict in the New Zealand fauna.

13. As a result of further systematic study, it is proposed to establish a new family for the genus *Cyclaxyra* Broun, as part of a revised family classification of Clavicornia (Crowson & Sen Gupta, in press). Thus not only a generic name but also a family-group name is involved in this case.

14. As documented above, the name *Cyclaxyra* is well known, both in New Zealand and worldwide. By contrast the name *Melanochroa* Broun, 1882 has never been used as the valid name for this genus since its original publication and was forgotten even by its own author. Moreover it is an unused senior homonym of the dipteran genus *Melanochroa* Roeder, 1886. Accordingly we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to:

- (1) use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Melanochroa* Broun, 1882 for the purposes of the Principles of Priority and of Homonymy;
- (2) place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893 (gender: feminine), type species, by monotypy, *Cyclomorpha politula* Broun, 1881;
- (3) place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *politula* Broun, 1881, as published in the binomen *Cyclomorpha politula* (name of the type species of *Cyclaxyra* Broun, 1893).
- (4) place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Melanochroa* Broun, 1882 as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above.

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